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GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP
IN YEW AND BOX

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

IN YEW AND BOX

BY

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The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

AUTHOR OF

"ASPECTS OF HOUSES IN RELATION TO WIND,
RAINFALL AND SUNSHINE"

"A HISTORY OF ENGLISH BRICKWORK"
ETC., ETC.



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TO

MY FRIENDS,

AMATEUR TOPIARISTS AND PROFESSIONAL GARDENERS,

WHOSE KEEN INTEREST AND INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE

HAVE DEVELOPED THESE POSSIBILITIES

IN YEW AND BOX,

THIS LITTLE BOOK IS DEDICATED

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~~55~~

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PREFACE

THE planting and cultivation of yew has long been an important element in garden design, but there is no adequate, reliable treatise dealing with these matters, and the art of topiary is jealously guarded by the professional grower. The following pages set forth in detail methods which have proved satisfactory in practice in respect of hedges, arches and clipped specimens in yew and box.

NATHANIEL LLOYD.

GREAT DIXTER,
NORTHAM.

LIST OF PLATES

PLATE

1. A. No. H.G.4. PILLARS SOLD AS HEDGE PLANTS.
B. THE BEST CLASS OF PLANT FOR HEDGES.
2. INSTRUMENT FOR DETERMINING BATTER, AND TO CHECK ACCURACY OF CLIPPING.
3. CLIPPING TOP OF HEDGE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
4. THE HEDGE SHOWN IN PLATE 3, AFTER CLIPPING.
5. TESTING LEVEL OF OLD HEDGE TOP WITH SHORT BATTEN AND SPIRIT LEVEL.
6. LINE TO GUIDE THE EXTENT OF CUTTING BACK NEW GROWTH.
7. HIGHAM; HEDGE ROUND LAWN BORDERS AS PLANTED.
8. HIGHAM; THE HEDGE SHOWN IN PLATE 7 FOUR YEARS LATER.
9. SUTTON PLACE.
10. SUTTON PLACE.
11. PENSHURST PLACE. BOX PARTERRE.
12. TANK GARDEN AT BRICKWALL.
13. BATEMAN'S.
14. GREAT DIXTER.
15. A LARGE ARCHWAY.
16. THE ARCHWAY SHOWN IN PLATE 15.
17. EARLSHALL.
18. A NARROW ARCHWAY.
19. VISTA THROUGH YEW ARCHWAY.
20. VISTA THROUGH YEW ARCHWAY.
21. BATEMAN'S.
22. VISTA THROUGH YEW ARCHWAY.
23. GREAT DIXTER.
24. YEW TUNNEL.
25. TRABEATED OPENING WITH FINIALS, AT COTTAGE GATE, HOREHAM WOOD.
26. LEAF MOOR COTTAGES, FRANT.
27. YEW PORCH AT BENENDEN.
28. CIRCLE OF SIMPLE YEW CONES AT BRICKWALL.
29. CONE WITH BUTTON FINIAL.

LIST OF PLATES

PLATE

30. YEW COFFEE-POTS WITH YEW PIERS BEYOND.
31. AVENUE OF TETRAHEDRONS AT BRICKWALL.
32. THE FAMOUS POND GARDEN, HAMPTON COURT.
33. (1) TOPIARY TREATMENT OF A NATURAL GROWN YEW TREE.
34. (2) TOPIARY TREATMENT OF A NATURAL GROWN YEW TREE.
35. (3) TOPIARY TREATMENT OF A NATURAL GROWN YEW TREE.
36. (4) TOPIARY TREATMENT OF A NATURAL GROWN YEW TREE.
37. (5) TOPIARY TREATMENT OF A NATURAL GROWN YEW TREE.
38. MOVING A YEW TREE.
39. (1) FORMING A PEACOCK.
40. (2) FORMING A PEACOCK.
41. (3) FORMING A PEACOCK.
42. MODELLING A PHEASANT.
43. A BLACKBIRD.
44. A SITTING BIRD.
45. TEAPOT FORMED OUT OF BUNCH OF TWIGS BY COTTAGER.
46. YEW TREE COTTAGES, FRANT.
47. YEW TREES AT CHURCH GATE, WEST BEDFONT.
48. TOPIARY GARDEN AT EARLSHALL.
49. TOPIARY GARDEN, GREAT DIXTER.
50. THE MAZE AT HATFIELD.
51. CRENELLATED BOX HEDGE.
52. TOPIARY WORK IN BOX AT EARLSHALL.
53. COTTAGE LOAVES.
54. BOX BIRDS.



GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP IN YEW AND BOX

THE word "garden," whether traced to French, Dutch or German origins, signifies an enclosure: indeed it is within everyone's knowledge that the actual sense of being in a garden is not experienced (whatever the cultivation) except when there is also a feeling of enclosure. Without such enclosure, as may happen when a new garden is laid out upon an open site (before walls are built or hedges have grown up), the feelings of protection, of peacefulness and of repose are altogether lacking.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the garden maker strives to secure something more than an open fence to keep out cattle. Perhaps there is no more desirable form of enclosure than an old stone or brick wall the joints of which may be richly studded with wall-loving plants, but a new wall needs more than one generation to mature to such a state. Next, for screen and background to borders, come hedges, for which a host of bush and tree plants, suitable and unsuitable, have been employed. Deciduous bushes, such as white-thorn or quick, though excellent as screens and on account of their rapidity of growth, are not comparable as backgrounds with evergreens. Of these the common yew, *Taxus baccata*,

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

is superior to all others. That yew is slow of growth is one of those popular fallacies the origin of which is difficult to imagine, for it is actually one of the quickest growing of all hedge plants, and no other so well responds to suitable treatment. The small leaves or needles do not look unsightly when cut as do those of big-leaved plants like laurel, and if properly clipped the plants do not become lean and stalky near the ground like privet, thuya and arbor vitæ. Yew also possesses the advantage of readily being trimmed to any shapes desired. This property (shared by the slower-growing box) has long been appreciated by gardeners.

The importance of the formal garden as a setting to the house is too well established to require vindication here, and yew hedges form a suitable link between the purely architectural lay-out which is essential in the immediate vicinity of the house, and such wild and more unsophisticated treatment as may be in keeping at a little distance. Formal gardening, introduced here in the first half of the sixteenth century, became general before the end of Elizabeth's reign. It was based upon the Italian gardens of the Renaissance ; but these had their prototypes in Roman gardens, and, in the first century, Pliny writes of box cut into shapes of animals. Yew was planted at Hampton Court by Henry VIII ; and Bacon speaks of topiary work executed in juniper, box and yew. At the present time the sound revival of garden planning

IN YEW AND BOX

upon architectural lines has emphasized the importance of yew for hedges, even more than for topiary work. Many failures, however, occur through lack of knowledge on the part of gardeners and other persons concerned with planting and maintenance.

HEDGES. With a view to showing the rapidity of the growth of yew, when suitably treated, records have been kept of eight hedges, noting the sizes of the plants when put in, the treatment of ground, and manner of planting and describing the different kinds of soils. By this means a clear idea can be had of the possibilities of yew and the best means of obtaining matured hedges in a short time.

RESULTS OF PLANTING YEW HEDGES OF VARIOUS SIZES IN DIFFERENT SOILS

Nos.	Size when planted.	Size in 12 years as clipped.			Situation and Treatment.
		Height.	Base width.	Top width.	
T.L. 1.	6 × 2-ft. pillars sold as hedge plants.	8½	4½	1¾ ft.	Ground dug 4 ft. wide and 2½ ft. deep, 2-in. land drain at bottom of trench, covered brick rubble. Then 9 in. soil, with dung. On this 6 in. soil, and filled up with soil and a little well-rotted dung in which plants set. Clay soil. Turf both sides. A very wet position.

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

Nos.	Size when planted.	Size in 12 years as clipped.			Situation and Treatment.
		Height.	Base width.	Top width.	
R.G. 2.	$4\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ -ft. pillars.	7	$4 \times$	$2\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	Treatment as last. Heavy loam. Turf one side : on other side (to prevent roots reaching rose beds) a barrier of galvanized iron $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide bedded in the ground on its edge was interposed.
O.G. 3.	3-ft. pyramids, 2 ft. at base.	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$\times 4\frac{1}{2} \times$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	On old hedge bank, double dug 2 ft. deep ; dung dug into bottom spit ; old dung in top spit. Border 3 ft. away both sides. Medium loam.
H.G. 4.	3-ft. pillars, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ ft. at base.	6	$\times 5 \times$	$1\frac{1}{4}$ ft.	Planted broadside to wind. Rough grass one side, kitchen garden other side, dug $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. No. 1A. Sandy loam.
H.G. 5.	Do.	7	$\times 5 \times$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	End on to wind. Rough grass one side, kitchen garden the other side. Sandy loam.
H.G. 6.	Do.	8	$\times 5\frac{1}{2} \times$	2 ft.	End on to wind. Garden both sides. Sandy loam.
O. 7.	Nursery plants 1 ft. high.	In nine years : $6 \times 3\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ ft.			On old hedge bank ; ditch both sides, over- shadowed by trees and high hedge 8 ft. to S.E. Dug, etc., as O.G. 3. Medium loam.

IN YEW AND BOX

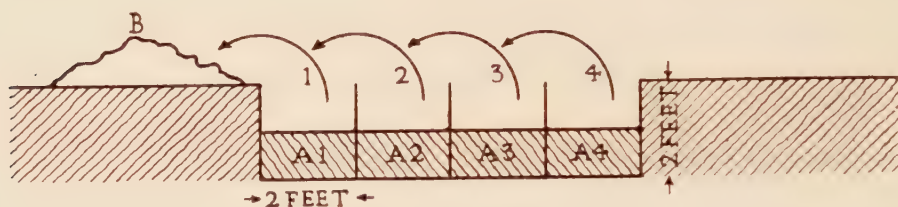
Nos.	Size when planted.	Size in 12 years as clipped.			Situation and Treatment.
		Height.	Base width.	Top. width.	
H.	3-ft. pyramids, scanty foliage.	In four years, as clipped :	4 × 3 × 1 ft.		Well dug and manured herbaceous border; sandy loam, overlying sandstone rock.

It should be noted that the dimensions after several years are much less than if the clipping each season had not been very drastic : the object being to obtain close, compact growth rather than large size.

These tabulated records show quickest and most economical results with the 3-ft. pyramids, and this advantage is still more marked in view of the severe losses experienced with the 4½-ft. and 6-ft. plants, the mortality of which was from 30 per cent to 50 per cent. Moreover, these large plants, not being fully furnished down to the ground, were very thin and scanty looking for several years ; whereas the 3-ft. pyramids, which were bushy near the ground when planted, formed a solid hedge in less than four years, and with few losses. The 3-ft. pillars sold as plants for making hedges were not bushy near the ground, and took many years to fill out low down ; whereas plants which started thin at the top soon grew together into good hedges. It may be laid down as an axiom that it takes two to three times as long to grow a good base to a plant as to fill in at the top. All plants grow

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

quickly if the ground is well and deeply dug, as illustrated, but thorough drainage is essential in heavy soils. Without this, water lies in the dug ground and the roots stand in water all winter. The consequence is that the foliage turns coppery, and, if the waterlogged condition continues, the needles turn a pale colour and the plant dies. Where it was necessary to keep the yew roots out of a rose border, as in R.G. 2, by inter-



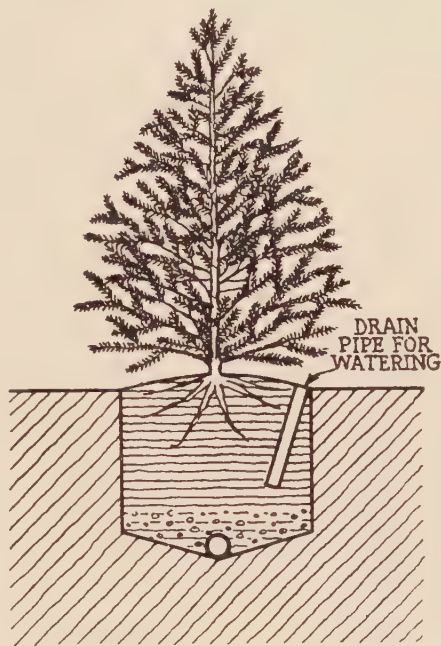
DOUBLE DIGGING

Lower spit, A1, A2, etc., forked up with dung. The top spit from No 1 is thrown out at B until wanted to fill up at the other end of trench.

posing a vertical barrier of sheet galvanized iron, the ground on the other side of the hedge was dug and cultivated 4 ft. out. Roots were not allowed to come within 6 ins. of the dung at the bottom of the trenches, and only short, well-rotted manure was mixed with the soil in which the yews were planted. The roots were planted rather high (about 4 ins. up) that water might drain from their stems, and trodden in very firmly. It was found that spring was a better time to plant than autumn, when the looser soil tended to become waterlogged. In an exposed situation, April was found a good

IN YEW AND BOX

time to plant, when the gales, which strained the roots, had abated. Where a hedge was planted broadside to the south, it was sheltered for a year by canvas screens $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high, Plate 1A, to protect from the pressure of wind. In some years, long droughts, with bright sun and drying winds, were experienced in early summer. The labour of frequent watering was reduced by setting one 2-in. land drain on end in the ground between each plant, one end being just on the surface (this was covered with a piece of tile to reduce evaporation) and water poured down it to the roots of the plants. This served a double purpose by substituting weekly for daily watering and by drawing roots



SECTION THROUGH DRAINED TRENCH.
TREE PLANTED HIGH

downwards into wet ground instead of upwards to be scorched by sun, after water poured on the surface had evaporated. In exceptional seasons an occasional drenching of foliage in the evening was also very helpful to the larger plants.¹ Yews should not be clipped until at least

¹ By the same method yews could be maintained in countries where summers are fiercely hot or droughty.

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

one year after planting : actually not before the September twelvemonth after planting. The roots will then have had time to make fresh growth and so to consolidate as to be firmly established. It must be remembered that cutting away the top shoot or leader always throws a plant back. The heights of trees will vary a little, no matter how even a lot may have been sent out by the nurseryman, and effort should be made at first clipping to bring these to an average height. Cutting the tops out of the taller plants will cause them to fill out sideways whilst the shorter ones are growing up to them, and so to fill up the intervals between the plants. The second clipping, a year later, should produce a fairly even, level and compact hedge.

The foregoing remarks apply particularly to plants several feet in height, such as are put in to get a good hedge in the shortest time. It will be seen, however, that the most economical and satisfactory results in other respects were obtained with nursery plants only 1 ft. high. These cost one-twelfth what the 3-ft. plants did ; practically none were lost, and they required little attention after planting. Although they caught up the 3-ft. plants in about nine years, they did not make so good a hedge after only three or four years' growth. At the other extreme were the 6-ft. plants, which were very costly, and difficult to keep alive in an unfavourable season ; notwithstanding their height they made but a thin,

IN YEW AND BOX

poor hedge for several years. Whatever sized plants may be chosen, it is well to obtain a sample plant from the supplier who quotes, and it should be stipulated that the sample shall represent the minimum size which will be sent in execution of order. The usual practice of sending an average sample may result in disappointment when the bulk comes forward. In inviting tenders from nurserymen, regard should be paid to the class of soil in which the plants have been grown. To bring plants from poor or clayey soil to put them in rich well-drained loam will result satisfactorily ; but to take them from rich soil and plant in that which is light and hungry, or to set them in stiff waterlogged clay, will result in many losses, slow growth and poor hedges. If very large plants (5 to 6 ft. high) are contemplated, it is well to ascertain that they have been moved every few years, and that the last move took place not more than three years previously. Plants which have been moved from time to time will have many compact, fibrous roots ; whereas trees which have not been disturbed for many years will probably have large, coarse, tap roots, which must necessarily be severed in the operation of lifting and make the plant's survival after replanting an exceedingly doubtful prospect.

When plants arrive from the nurseryman, the roots should be examined, and if dry they should be soaked in water for twelve hours or longer before laying into trenches pending

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

planting. The sooner they are planted, however, the better their chances of survival. The distance plants should be set apart will depend upon their size and upon how urgently a compact hedge is required. If possible, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 ft. between stems should be allowed, but small plants or those having scanty foliage may be set closer. When hedges are well grown they may suffer severe injury if a heavy fall of snow lies on them, and snow, therefore, should not be allowed to accumulate.

After yews are established, the ground for at least 2 ft. round them should be well hoed or forked up three or four times a year, and once a year well dressed with such manure as basic slag, sprinkled on the newly worked soil and allowed to wash in. A good month in which to do this is March.

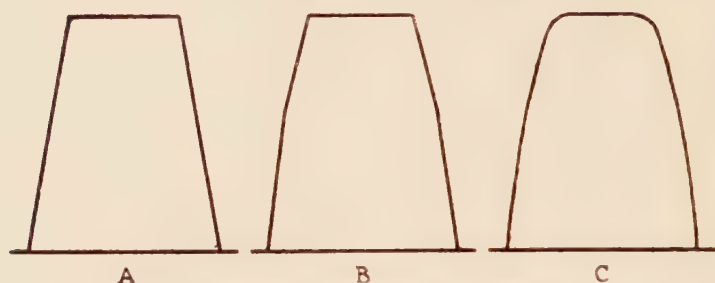
CLIPPING. If yews are clipped late in August or during September, the work will be completed before frosts are severe, and, as the growth will then have been made for the season, hedges and topiary work will remain sharp and tidy until fresh growth is made the following summer : actually for eight or nine months. In hedge-clipping there is only one essential to be observed, which is to have the greatest thickness at ground level and gradually to reduce this all the way up. The sloping face thus produced is what a mason would call the " batter " of a wall ; but whereas a batter of 1 in. to each foot rise is sufficient for a garden wall, yew hedges

IN YEWE AND BOX

should have from 2 to 4 ins. batter to each foot of height. Batter has two merits: one that it makes the hedge look substantial, the other that it allows the lower boughs of the plant to receive sun and air, which stimulates their growth. On the other hand, should this lower foliage be recessed and overhung by that above it, the result will be weak growth, resulting eventually in exposure of the stems and spoiling of the hedge. Where this has occurred in old hedges, the only course to pursue is to cut all branches and foliage back severely, even as far as the main stems of the plants, and thus to encourage fresh growth to break, which in a few years will form a good battered face to the hedge. This was the course adopted some years ago to the high hedge at the foot of the sunk garden at Penshurst Place, Plate 11, which is now greatly improved and would be better still if cut with a batter. The practice in this garden is to aim at a vertical face to hedges, with the result that the foliage of the upper branches thrives more vigorously than that below, and thus tends slightly to overhang, so destroying just that vertical effect it is desired to produce. It is not necessary that the amount of batter should be the same all the way up. The hedge round the Rose Garden at Dixter, Plate 14, has a batter of 3 ins. to the foot; but the buttresses have a batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. to the foot for the first 3 ft. and of 3 ins. to the foot for the next 2 ft. The sketches A, B, C show sections of three methods of battering:—

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

- A. A uniform batter of 2 ins. to the foot, cut flat at top, with sharp angles.
- B. A batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. to the foot for the first 3 ft., and 3 ins. to the foot for the next 2 ft., cut flat at top, with sharp angles.
- C. A batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. to the foot for the first 3 ft., and of 3 ins. to the foot for the next 2 ft.; the top is cut flat, but the angles are rounded.



VARIOUS BATTERS FOR HEDGES

A is a good treatment for hedges such as those at Penshurst, which are to have domes or semicircular finials rising from the flat tops.

B produces a more substantial effect, and is particularly suitable when a walled appearance is desired as for the Rose Garden at Dixter, Plate 14.

C is the most substantial and matured-looking treatment of all and is particularly suited to homely, old-fashioned garden design, as distinguished from more formal and classic layouts. The illustrations of hedges nearest this section are those of the hedge beyond the pool at Brickwall, Plate 12, and the

IN YEW AND BOX

hedge in the cottage garden at Frant, Plate 46. The batters mentioned are not the only ones that may be employed : indeed, there is room for considerable exercise of judgment in varying the batters of hedges in different situations ; batter exceeding 4 ins. to the foot may be given and will encourage thick growth.

The introduction of piers, buttresses and simple finials at well-considered intervals greatly enhances the importance of yew hedges, but these should be plain and simple in form, or the air of repose and dignity which the garden should possess will suffer. Fanciful forms of birds, etc., on hedges are better suited to the cottage garden and to specimen trees of the topiary garden proper, of which mention will be made later.

As will be seen in the illustrations, yew hedges owe much of their charm to the accuracy with which they have been trimmed and to the care taken to keep their tops perfectly level. One has only to compare such a hedge with a quick-thorn hedge as trimmed by farm labourers. Though wide at the top, it is thin at the bottom, with many gaps, and its levels wander up and down with the contours of the ground. As a matter of fact this is all quite unnecessary, and is the result of carelessness and ignorance. Such thorn hedges have been taken in hand and had applied to them the treatment given to yew hedges, with the result that (following drastic cutting in

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

the first year) in a few years they were narrow at the top, wide near the ground, evenly covered with verdure and not only pleasing to see, but efficient as fences and no longer requiring repairs and expenditure for stakes and labour.

When the height has been determined to which a yew hedge is to be cut that season (if desired, the height may be increased according to the growth made each year), a strong stake of, say, 2 ins. diameter should be driven into the ground through the branches near to the proposed top of batter. This stake should have its top the exact height to which the hedge is to be trimmed. Five or six feet along the hedge another stake is to be driven into the ground in a similar position, until its top is on the same level as the first stake. This level is determined by means of a straight-edged board of sufficient length to bridge the interval and rest on the tops of the stakes (any carpenter will plane a "deal" for the purpose); on the upper edge of this board the spirit-level is laid, Plates 3 and 4. The stakes having been tested and found level, a string is stretched between them, resting on their tops and continued to another stake as far along the hedge as required. If this cannot be strained sufficiently to prevent sagging, it must be supported by slight intermediate stakes, but, even where this is done, the level must be tested from time to time to ensure its having been preserved, as it is liable to be disturbed during cutting and also by the intervention of twigs of yew with which the

IN YEWE AND BOX

string will be in contact. When the hedge has a very wide top, it will be necessary to find and mark the level (as described with stakes and string) on *both* sides. Once a hedge has been properly levelled, the annual cutting can be done by eye (assisted by a short piece of batten and a spirit-level, Plate 5) except for long levels, for which a guide string is desirable. Of course the levelling stakes are removed after cutting, but the first two should not be drawn up until the whole length of hedge has been cut, for it is from them that all extensions of level are projected.

Festina lente should be the motto of the topiarist. It is better to cut away less than is anticipated will be necessary, and to go over the area a second time, than to risk cutting too much and have to wait several seasons' growth to make good the error. Cones are easier to clip than pyramids: indeed all circular work is easier than flat surfaces, and it is well to practise in circular work first until a certain degree of proficiency with shears has been attained, remembering that the whole charm of such work depends upon the precision with which it is done.

TOPIARY SPECIMEN TREES. The practice of cutting trees into shapes of birds and animals, practised by the Romans and revived in the Middle Ages, was introduced into England with other architectural adjuncts. Like every art, it may be abused, but, treated with restraint, such clipped trees intro-

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

duced singly, in pairs or in groups, provide a certain atmosphere in a garden which is not to be obtained by any other means. The fantastic shapes and figures at Earlshall, Plate 48, soften the severity of their architectural background, to which they afford a pleasing contrast, and the plump, odd shapes on the cottage-garden hedge at Frant, Plate 46, are exactly suited to a small garden, and worthy of better buildings behind them. In specimen trees, as in yew hedges, there is virtue in great bulk : hence the attenuated topiary plants grown in Holland and imported here require many years before they confer the right quality upon the gardens in which they are placed. Large trees of this kind are exceedingly costly, and better effects can be obtained by purchasing large, bushy, cone-shaped trees in England and starting to trim them into shape when established after removal. If such trees are planted in ground prepared as described for hedges, well supported for such time as is necessary (this will vary according to the sheltered or exposed nature of the site) by stakes concealed within their foliage, they will soon present a better appearance than the meagre imported trees and in very few years surpass these in every respect. Such shapes as the cone with button top, Plate 29, can be formed from good plants of suitable size three years after moving. The cones at Brickwall, Plate 28, are exceedingly effective in groups. They are of great age, but similar sizes might be obtained with good 6-ft.

IN YEW AND BOX

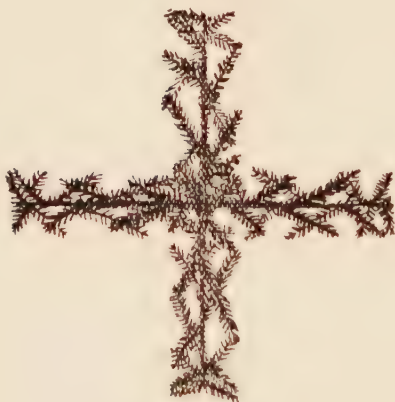
trees in twelve years, if properly planted and tended. After only three years they would look compact and shapely. The trees on each side of the pathway at Brickwall, Plate 31, are over two hundred years old, but they also could be produced in a tenth part of that time. They are not pyramids but tetrahedrons, being triangular in plan. Natural developments of the cone and button, Plate 29, are the coffee-pots, Plate 30, while the teapot at Sedlescombe, Plate 45, and the sitting bird, Plate 44, from the same village belong to this class of treatment: indeed no sooner is a design like the cone and button completed than it suggests its own development. Peacocks and other birds with wide-spread tails are favourite subjects because they are extremely effective (the more wooden looking, the better they are) and are easy to form. It is only necessary to choose a plant suitable for the purpose in view. If the peacock is to stand upon one stem, a tree must be chosen which has one main stem, with two twigs branching at the point where the bird is to rest. These are bent, the smaller to the angle of the proposed bird's neck, the larger into a loop and both are secured in position by stout fencing wire. Other twigs and branches which can be utilized to form tail or body are tied into position and superfluous growths cut away, as in the illustration, Plate 39A. The development of such a bird is shown in illustration, Plate 39B. If it is not essential that the bird should stand on a single stem, the body may be formed

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

by tying twigs together and leaving longer stems from which to grow head and tail, as in Plates 40 and 41. By this means large objects may be modelled in a short time, and this is how most of the cottage subjects illustrated have been started : indeed this treatment is possibly that best suited to a growing material.



Elevation of Crown with nearest
twig cut away.



Plan of Crown from above.

FORMATION OF A TERMINAL CROWN

A crown is formed by bending over and downwards four twigs, which grow symmetrically from the stem : their points being tied with tarred string to the stem below. As the natural habit of twigs and branches is to grow upward, a better curve is obtained by tying down and obviates the necessity for using wire to form the curves. When, however, a ring is to be formed at the top of a tree, stout wire must be secured to the stem just below two branching twigs, and turned in a circle round which the twigs may be trained for the ring. Spirals may be formed by cutting back the foliage of a tree which has one central stem, or by choosing a young yew plant sufficiently

IN YEW AND BOX

pliable to train round a stout stake, driven into the ground *before* the yew is planted against it (page 28). Such a stem will grow upwards very quickly, and side growths should be cut away so as to preserve the gradually tapering and compactly grown spiral. A *chestnut* stake 3 ins. in diameter which has been barked and had the point creosoted up to a foot above ground will last for many years until the stem of the yew is well set in the required twist. There is no limit to the diameter of the stake used. If a very open spiral is required several stakes may be grouped in the centre.

It must be remembered that once a start is made to form a finial, the height of the tree is then approximately determined, consequently the formation of finials cannot be begun until the tree has attained the full height of base required. Forming birds and other shapes is so easily done that any intelligent person can undertake them. It is the first step that intimidates the beginner, but even the simplest beginning will suggest its own development so obviously that it becomes difficult to realize there was ever any problem. Simple, substantial-looking shapes are best. Fussy, finical forms are especially to be avoided. The



FORMATION OF TERMINAL RING
ON STOUT WIRE

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

massive dignified effect of the gateway arch of Leaf Moor Cottages, Plate 26, is ruined by the trivial devices by which

it is surmounted. These may be compared with the well-chosen shapes on the hedge at Yew Tree Cottages, Plate 46.

Wire guides and string ties should be watched to prevent constriction of stems by delay in re-tying, or the plant will deteriorate rapidly.

MOVING LARGE TREES. It sometimes happens that old, naturally-grown yew trees, Plate 1B, are near a house or so placed in a garden that they would be better clipped to shape than if left in their natural state. To effect this change, the branches must be cut back as shown in illustration, Plate 33, when the tree will throw out a multitude of fresh shoots and, in a few years, may be cut to any suitable form that is desired. Plates 34, 35, and 36



METHOD OF FORMING SPIRAL ROUND
STAKE, BEGINNING WITH 1 YEAR
OLD PLANT

IN YEW AND BOX

show intermediate stages. Umbrella-shaped trees, as those at Hampton Court, can be formed in this way and most naturally-grown, old trees lend themselves to this shape.

Large trees may be moved successfully, but the degree of such success will depend much upon how large a ball of earth is retained round the roots and upon how short a time elapses before replanting. Trees which with their ball of earth weigh up to 8 cwt., may be raised and moved by half a dozen men. The ball of roots and earth should be about 4 ft. across and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep ; by the time it is moved the latter measurement will have been reduced to 2 ft. by crumbling away of earth. The soil must be damp throughout. If dry, it will not hold together ; if too wet, it will be greasy and sticky, so as almost to be impossible to work. All roots for 2 ft. around the tree and more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. under the surface of the ground should be cut away, including any tap root. The ground should be opened for several feet round, as necessitated by the situation, so that men engaged may work conveniently. Any long branches should be raised and tied up close to the trunk. A piece of strong canvas, such as is used by furniture removers, 15 ft. square, is inserted under the ball. This is done by pulling the tree over on its side, folding and pushing the canvas as far under as possible (as a nurse puts a sheet under a patient who cannot leave bed) and then rocking the tree in the opposite direction, which will

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

enable the canvas to be drawn still further under. This process is repeated (if necessary) until the ball of earth and roots stands in the middle of the canvas. The canvas is then drawn up to the trunk and tied securely so that the four corners form four large ears, which will afford good handles of which the men may take hold. The tree is then rocked on one side and earth thrown under and rammed tightly. On this rammed earth the tree is rocked to the other side, further earth thrown in where it was lying and rammed hard. The process is repeated until the canvas ball has been raised nearly to the original ground level, when it can be rocked, pushed and lifted on to planks, along which it can be pushed with levers and pulled by the canvas ears. At the end of the planks or under them, as may be most convenient, a Samson trolley may be brought and the ball slid or dropped on to this, Plate 38. Then it can be wheeled on planks used as rails to its new position, where it may be slid into the hole prepared for it and, by rocking from side to side, the canvas be folded and withdrawn in the same way as it was got under. It will be found that six or seven men are as many as can work together round the ball, which limits the size of tree and ball which can be handled without special appliances. The new site for the tree should be drained and prepared as described for hedges. The tree should be firmly staked and secured for many years after removal, until it has made fresh,

IN YEW AND BOX

strong roots that will enable it to withstand a severe gale. Such root development may be encouraged by digging deeply and wide about the new site and ramming the ground firmly after planting. It must be remembered that (except, perhaps, standing in water) nothing is so trying to a moved tree as continual strain upon its unconsolidated roots. The bigger and taller the tree and the more exposed the situation, the greater such strain must be.

Very large, old trees require special apparatus for lifting and moving. Several firms of nurserymen (as Cheals of Crawley) undertake this work, for which they have machinery. If the tree to be moved is a fine and valuable one, this may be done with some certainty of survival if a trench is dug in a semicircle several feet from the stem, by which all roots are severed. The trench should then be filled with good soil, well rammed. The following year a similar trench should be dug on the other side of the tree, roots cut and soil replaced and rammed. Two years later (that is, three years from the first operation) the new fibrous roots which will have been formed will be tough and will stand handling, which they would not stand after one year's growth. Care should be taken to drain the opened ground, that water may not lie in the trenches.

High specimen trees and hedges can generally be reached for clipping from a light ladder resting against them, for by

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

the time the plants have reached such height they have been clipped many seasons and the branches are sufficiently stiff to bear a man's weight on the ladder. Exceptionally high trees and hedges which are very thick require the use of boards resting on painters' trestles. Others may be reached from step-ladders, and there is a form of three-legged ladder used in hop gardens which is very suitable, as one leg can be pushed in amongst the lower branches, so bringing the top close to the work. Generally, it will be found necessary that one person should hold a step-ladder whilst another clips.

ARCHES AND OPENINGS. There is no more attractive feature in a garden than a vista, and openings in yew hedges present particularly charming effects of this kind. Plate 23 shows a semicircular arch surmounted by a half-grown crow-stepped pediment. The arch was formed by tying together long twigs and shaping with the shears. Where the span is wide or the arch slender, as at Earlshall, Plate 17, a light frame of 1-in. \times $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. battens is often set up upon which to train the branches until they are sufficiently stout to support themselves and maintain the shape of the arch. Such an arch takes several years to form, and the wooden framework is very conspicuous; it also occupies too much space and tends to screen the foliage from light. A better method is that illustrated on Plates 15 and 16, where stout stakes were driven into the ground amongst the branches of the

IN YEWE AND BOX

yews and to these thick fencing wire, $\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter, securely fixed by winding round the stakes. The wires were then taken across the path and fixed to similar stakes on the other side, forming single-strand wire arches. At short intervals these arches were connected by strong tarred string crossing them. The structure is shown as fixed (before the yew branches were tied up or clipped) and the same structure after each twig had been tied individually to wire or string. The tying was done with tarred string. The arch illustrated was 8 ft. above the path at its highest point, and would allow a fair amount of sunshine to penetrate and encourage growth of verdure. The whole work occupied two men a day and a half and has withstood heavy gales of wind. The growth of the next two years should enable the curve of the arch to be completed accurately. The trees were well manured and the soil round their roots forked up; everything possible was done to encourage growth, especially on the right, where the branches for the arch were required to grow away from the sun. Those on the left, which grew towards the sun, threw out many more and much longer shoots. The trabeated opening over a cottage gate at Horeham Road, Plate 25, is carried out in that ponderous manner which is so well suited to yew and would be still more effective were it flanked by more important hedges. Yew porches and tunnels, Plates 27 and 24, are also suited

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

to the plant, but if these are deep, the light will not penetrate sufficiently within the arch to secure growth of foliage there. The further development of this treatment in the formation of summer-houses is subject to the same limitation within, but the great mass of yew is extremely effective when viewed from without.

Box. The experience gained with yew is also applicable to box, which is really slow growing, but for that reason is especially well suited for positions where miniature hedges or specimens are required. The practice of clipping with a batter is as important as with yew : even for a parterre as that at Penshurst, Plate 11, a slight batter will make all the difference between compact, even growth and lanky, stalky plants. Often the good result derived from batter is marred by the growth of border plants which have been set too close to the box edging or hedge. Some parterres have no plants growing in the areas surrounded by box, but have the surface of the soil sprinkled with broken sea-shells, or small stones, often of different colours. Such formality, however, is at variance with true gardening, which may better be served by planting the beds with such delicate, slow-growing roses as *Comtesse de Cayla*. These may be grown alone, without any carpet of violas, which are liable to grow rankly and smother the lower growths of the box. If a carpet is essential, common stone-crop is pleasing and less harmful. In the Box Garden at

IN YEW AND BOX

Earlshall, Plate 52, fancy has run riot in a whole poultry yard of box and in many shaped plants, some of which have initials and other devices formed in relief on huge balls and cones. The whole is carried out in small compass, which should appeal to those who wish to achieve much in little space.

Often old roughly grown box plants may be obtained from old gardens. These will be leggy and all the growth will be on the top. If replanted as edgings and cut to a batter, as described for yew hedges, they will throw out fresh growths from the leggy stems and in three or four years form hedges or edgings 2 ft. high or more, as those seen through the archway, Plate 19, which were treated in this fashion and may be compared with the rectangular edging shown in Plate 21.

By choosing the best plants from such rough stuff, many fancy shapes may be produced quickly. The large cottage loaves planted in the centre of brick piers, Plate 53, were formed in this way, the bunch of taller plants in the middle being tied with tarred string round the waist; shorter plants or plants more deeply buried were set all round and hid the bare stems of the centre bunch. Thus, almost at once large, interesting objects were formed.

Very good box plants, shaped as peacocks, etc., are grown in large numbers in Holland for the English market. After a few months or years they begin to deteriorate and become sorry objects. This usually arises from insufficient room for

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP

root growth and from the quantity of soil being inadequate for plants of their sizes. Re-potting (or re-boxing) in larger receptacles, with good soil, will stimulate fresh growth. Where box birds have grown very large, as those in Plate 54, it may be inconvenient to have larger boxes or tubs. In such case the bottoms may be knocked out of the boxes, and the soil in them allowed to rest on the ground, which should be prepared by digging a couple of feet down and filling up with manure and good soil. The plants soon root into the earth in such a pit and flourish wonderfully. Boxes as those in the illustration will last over twenty years if made of sound oak. At the end of that time it may be necessary to bore out the oak pins with which they are put together and to build up new boxes of similar design round the cube of earth inside.

Box should be clipped in May or June, when it has made its fresh growth, and again in September, if exceptional growth renders this necessary.

PLATES



A. No. H.G.4. PILLARS SOLD AS HEDGE PLANTS.

Those broadside to wind are screened with canvas. For growth, see Table, p. 12. No. H.G.4.



B. THE BEST CLASS OF PLANT FOR HEDGES.

Pyramids, well furnished down to the ground, which quickly grow together at the top. Compare with Plate 18, taken twelve years later from the same spot. The tree in top left corner is that illustrated in Plates 33-36 before cutting back.



INSTRUMENT FOR DETERMINING BATTER, AND TO CHECK
ACCURACY OF CLIPPING.

The batter of this hedge, No. H.G.6. p. 12, is four inches to each foot of height. The cross batten at the top is marked with lines, each of which represents an inch batter to a foot in height. A pin passing through a hole in the guide, to holes in the cross-piece, keeps this to the batter required.



CLIPPING TOP OF HEDGE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
Testing level of stakes with straight edge and spirit level.



THE HEDGE SHOWN IN PLATE 3, AFTER CLIPPING.



TESTING LEVEL OF OLD HEDGE TOP WITH SHORT BATTEN AND SPIRIT LEVEL.



LINE TO GUIDE THE EXTENT OF CUTTING BACK NEW GROWTH.



HIGHAM; HEDGE ROUND LAWN BORDERS AS PLANTED.

The plants are somewhat scanty and not well furnished, but the ground was well prepared. Plants three feet high.



HIGHAM; THE HEDGE SHOWN IN PLATE 7 FOUR YEARS LATER.



SUTTON PLACE.

Yew hedge round sunk pool garden with piers at intervals forming recesses in which tubs of hydrangeas, etc., are set.



SUTTON PLACE.

Low yew hedge over which rose garden may be seen. This hedge and its piers look weak for lack of batter.



PENSURST PLACE. BOX PARTERRE.
High yew hedge at end separates the garden from the park.



TANK GARDEN AT BRICKWALL.

Extreme simplicity with consequent reposeful feeling is the characteristic of these hedges and conical piers.



BATEMAN'S.

The use of yew to stop a view and as a background and shelter for a garden seat.



GREAT DINTER.

Yew hedge round rose garden, with piers and buttresses. All cut with a batter to produce severe, massive wall effect.



A LARGE ARCHWAY.

A large archway of wide span before training the branches, which for several years had been left to overhang. Note the greater growth on the left side which faces the sun. The wires, quarter inch thick, are fixed to stakes driven into the ground among the foliage. These are connected by tarred cord to which each twig is tied.



THE ARCHWAY SHOWN IN PLATE 15.

The archway shown in Plate 15 after the branches have been tied separately with string, and superfluous growths trimmed. The work occupied two men a day and a half.



EARLSHALL.

Slender arch of great span, trained on wood battens, which are more unsightly than wire and cord. The piers forming recesses on each side of the path enclose flower plots, for which the competition by roots of yew is too severe. For such positions tubs or boxes of plants are more suitable, as at Sutton Place, Plate 9.



A NARROW ARCHWAY.

A narrow archway (four feet across) formed by tying twigs together and clipping to shape by eye alone. This illustration should be compared with Plate 1 B, taken from the same spot twelve years earlier.



VISTA THROUGH ARCHWAY.

Vista through archway, the pediment of which is to be crow-stepped. Note the batter of the well-grown box edging.



VISTA THROUGH YEW ARCHWAY.
Formed of 4 ft. plants put in twelve years earlier.



BATEMAN'S.

Vista through yew archway. Square-cut box edging.



VISTA THROUGH YEW ARCHWAY.

The finials of the two pyramids are being trained as fighting-cocks.



GREAT DINTER.

Semicircular yew archway in hedge, to be surmounted by crow-stepped pediment, now only half formed.



YEW TUNNEL.



TRABEATED OPENING WITH FINIALS, AT COTTAGE GATE, HOREHAM WOOD.



LEAF MOOR COTTAGES, FRANT.

The fussy finials over the great arch at the gate are out of keeping with its dignity and mass.



VIEW PORCH AT BENENDEN.



CIRCLE OF SIMPLE YEW CONES AT BRICKWALL.



CONE WITH BUTTON FINIAL.



YEW COFFEE-POTS WITH YEW PIERS BEYOND.

There is room for greater variety of shapes in specimen yews, provided these are simple and substantial.



AVENUE OF TETRAHEDRONS AT BRICKWALL.
Planted about two hundred years ago.



THE FAMOUS POND GARDEN, HAMPTON COURT.

Box cones in foreground. The mass of yew, with recess, forms an effective background for the statue.



(1) TOPIARY TREATMENT OF A NATURAL GROWN YEW TREE.

Fresh growth two years after cutting back to the stem at the top, and lower branches back to three feet long. The opening in the hedge seen on the left has grown as Plate 22 in the course of nine and a half years.



(2) TOPIARY TREATMENT OF A NATURAL GROWN YEW TREE,
New growth after six years,



(3) TOPIARY TREATMENT OF A NATURAL GROWN YEW TREE.
New growth after nine years ; shaping begun.



(4) TOPIARY TREATMENT OF A NATURAL GROWN YEW TREE.
The same tree from another point of view, after nine and a half years, showing
development of form.



(5) TOPIARY TREATMENT OF A NATURAL GROWN YEW TREE.
Another tree well modelled. Height about 25 feet,



MOVING A YEW TREE.

Roots of large tree enclosed in canvas, tied with handles for lifting (see pages 29, 30).
Weight of tree and earth round roots about four hundredweight.



A.



B.

(1) FORMING A PEACOCK.

- A. First stage : training to shape with strong fencing wire.
B. Second stage : after two years.



(2) FORMING A PEACOCK.

Another method: by tying together several stems and using the longest for head and tail.
Other birds in process of shaping may be seen in the background.



(3) FORMING A PEACOCK.
The same tree one year later,



MODELLING A PHEASANT.



A BLACKBIRD.



A SITTING BIRD.



TEAPOT FORMED OUT OF BUNCH OF TWIGS BY COTTAGER,



YEW TREE COTTAGES, FRANT.

A good example of yew hedge and finials as treated by cottagers. Too much of such treatment would be tiresome.



YEW TREES AT CHURCH GATE, WEST BEDFONT.

The date 1704 is cut in the foliage.



TOPIARY GARDEN AT EARLSHALL.
These trees were moved as six foot cones twenty years earlier.



TOPIARY GARDEN, GREAT DIXTER.

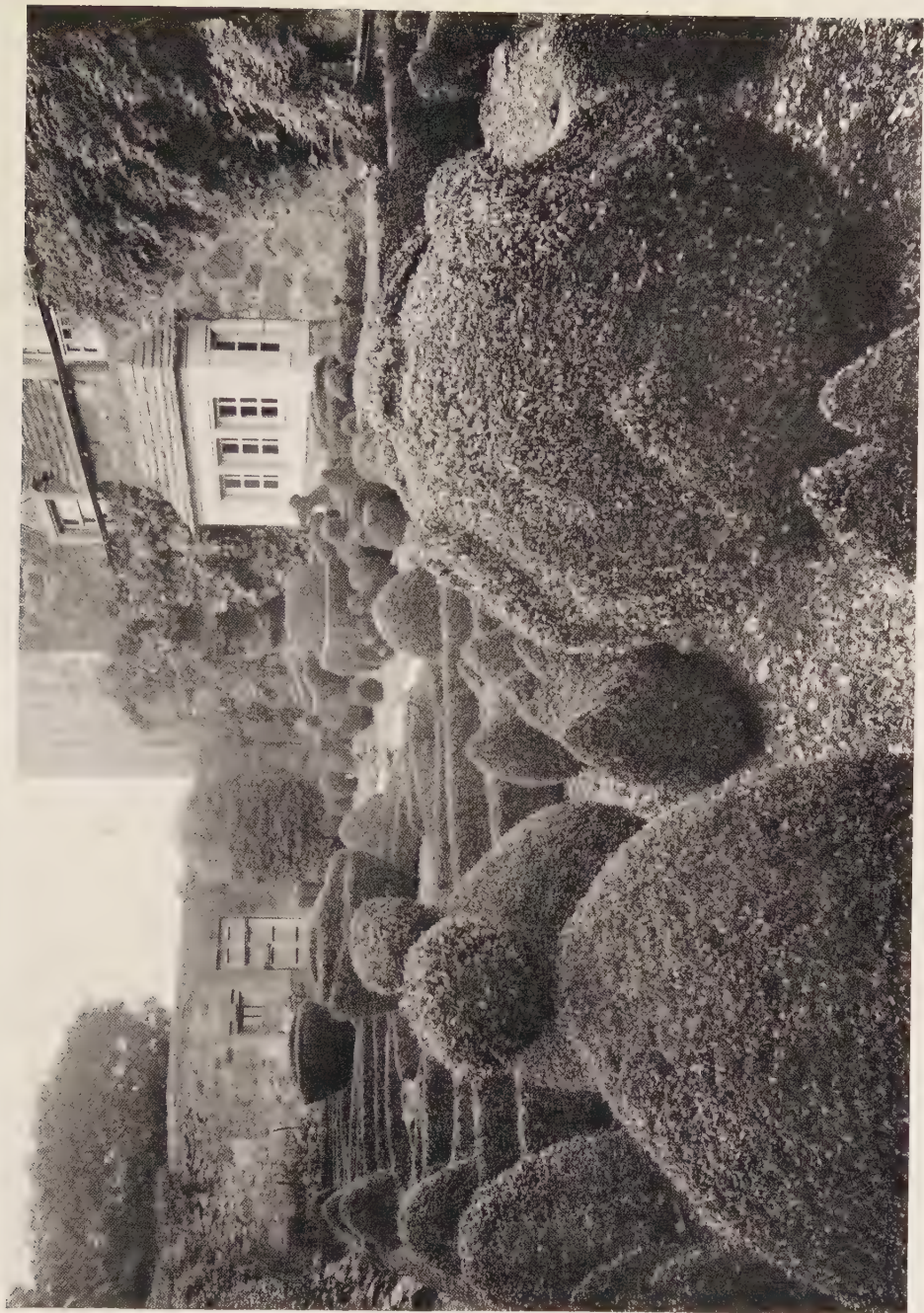


THE MAZE AT HATFIELD.

Formed of yew hedges. The heads of two large birds, also the work of the topiarist, can be seen in the centre.



CRENELLATED BOX HEDGE. Two feet high.



TOPIARY WORK IN BOX AT EARLS HALL.

Chickens, ducks, baskets, balls, with finials and figures in relief—all in box.



COTTAGE LOAVES.

Formed of bunches of old box plants, planted closely (in holes in the brick piers) and tied with tared string. They were cut to good shapes in two years.



BOX BIRDS

These box birds outgrew their boxes, from which the bottoms were taken and the roots allowed to go down into well-prepared soil in the ground.

